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Identical letters dated 6 September 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, and in response to the letter dated 6 August 2018 from the representative of the occupying Israeli authorities (S/2018/578), I should like to convey to you the following information.

The Israeli letter, with its claims and lies, is one of many others addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council concerning violations from the Syrian side. They are nothing more than a fresh attempt to deceive and turn the facts upside down, and thus deny that Israel is responsible for its dangerous policy of aggression, that it practices State terrorism, and that it continues to support armed terrorist groups, to occupy the Syrian Arab Golan and to violate Security Council resolution 350 (1974) concerning the separation of forces, as well as Council resolutions and international instruments concerning counter-terrorism. Like its predecessors, this attempt is doomed to failure.

After verifying the documents and meeting and liaising with the command of United Nations forces in the Golan, we wish to provide the following information, which disproves the Israeli claims:

- The United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) was not informed of the purported violations and did not enter them in their records. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic was not informed either, as ought to have occurred under the 1974 Agreement on Disengagement.
- Under the Agreement, the occupying Israeli authorities must hand over to UNDOF any civilian or soldier who crosses the ceasefire line. UNDOF, in turn, should hand that person over to the Syrian authorities. However, in a clear sign that its claims are mendacious, the Israeli authorities have not handed over any civilian or soldier to the United Nations. There have been no instances of crossings of the ceasefire line under the terms of the Agreement. Rather, the occupying Israeli authorities have given mendacious accounts of sightings. Those same authorities have opened crossings along the ceasefire line and appointed representatives from among the armed terrorist groups to arrange for members of the groups and their families to cross the ceasefire line. United Nations reports show clearly that the occupying Israeli authorities have been cooperating with the groups, and that they have opened crossings so that those groups can cross the ceasefire line.

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- The purported violations that are described in the Israeli letter are the work of armed terrorist groups located in the northern and southern parts of the area of separation, in Qahtaniyah, Qunaytirah, Hamidiyah, Jubbata al-Khashab, Ufaniya, Ruwayhinah, Burayqah, Bi'r al-Ajam and Ishah. The occupying Israeli authorities are cooperating with them on matters involving logistics, medical care, information and operations. They have cooperated with the terrorist Nusrah Front in the northern section of the area of disengagement, in Jubbata al-Khashab and Hamidiyah, and with other armed terrorist groups across the area of disengagement, as far as the southern part. That cooperation has been documented in the reports of the Secretary-General.

- At the behest of the United States, France, Britain and other Western States, the occupying Israeli authorities have openly violated the Agreement by smuggling 800 armed terrorists belonging to various nationalities, including members of the terrorist group known as the White Helmets, which is the media wing of the terrorist Nusrah Front. Moreover, a large number of the foreigners who joined the armed terrorist groups were let into the country by the occupying Israeli authorities through the occupied Syrian Golan.

I should be grateful if the present identical letters could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative